

From: [Smith, Monica](#)
To: [Zehner, Warren](#)
Cc: [Enders, Jhana](#); [Petersen, Chris](#); [Crossland, Ronnie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Collision in Houston Ship Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT
Date: Monday, March 09, 2015 3:54:54 PM

Warren seeing that you were telling me quite a bit about MTBE, please work with Jhana on developing responses associated w MTBE.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Crossland, Ronnie" <Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>
Date: March 9, 2015 at 3:37:54 PM CDT
To: "Petersen, Chris" <petersen.chris@epa.gov>
Cc: "Smith, Monica" <smith.monica@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Collision in Houston Ship Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Hubbard, Joseph" <Hubbard.Joseph@epa.gov>
Date: March 9, 2015 at 3:34:14 PM CDT
To: "Crossland, Ronnie" <Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>, "Enders, Jhana" <Enders.Jhana@epa.gov>
Cc: "Durant, Jennah" <Durant.Jennah@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Collision in Houston Ship Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT

Hi Ronnie and Jhana,

Can we answer these quick questions for HQ?

Since MTBE is no longer used as additive in gasoline or other products in the U.S., an issue EPA has weighed in on over the years, will there be a special cleanup effort in the channel that would keep it closed for a longer period than with some other chemical that spilled?

Has EPA been notified? **Yes**

Sending investigators/team? What is process from here?



9636242

Is it likely just to evaporate?

He says MTBE is generally more resistant to natural biodegradation than other gasoline components. Some monitoring wells have shown little overall reduction in MTBE concentration over several years which suggests that MTBE is relatively persistent in ground water. In contrast, studies of surface water (lakes and reservoirs have shown that MTBE volatilizes evaporates) relatively quickly.

Regards,

Joe Hubbard
Media Relations
Office of External Affairs, Region VI
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
OFFICE: 214-665-8476
hubbard.joseph@epa.gov

From: McCorkhill, Michael
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 3:23 PM
To: Durant, Jennah; Hubbard, Joseph
Cc: Vela, Austin; Acevedo, Janie; Assunto, Carmen
Subject: FW: Collision in Houston Ship Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT

From: Crossland, Ronnie
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 3:00 PM
To: McCorkhill, Michael
Cc: Smith, Monica; Petersen, Chris
Subject: Re: Collision in Houston Ship Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT

Auto correct messed it up.

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 9, 2015, at 2:55 PM, Crossland, Ronnie
<Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov> wrote:

Dying

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Crossland, Ronnie"
<Crossland.Ronnie@epa.gov>
Date: March 9, 2015 at 2:30:22 PM CDT
To: "Edlund, Carl" <Edlund.Carl@epa.gov>
Cc: "Phillips, Pam"
<phillips.pam@epa.gov>, "Petersen, Chris"
<petersen.chris@epa.gov>, "Smith,
Monica" <smith.monica@epa.gov>
**Subject: RE: Collision in Houston Ship
Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT**

Carl,

We are sending START to go out and do
some air monitoring. Jhana is reaching out
to USCG Houston for coordination.

Ronnie

-----Original Message-----

From: Crossland, Ronnie
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 2:22 PM
To: Edlund, Carl
Cc: Phillips, Pam; Petersen, Chris; Smith,
Monica
Subject: RE: Collision in Houston Ship
Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT

Carl,

I just checked local news and they are
reporting that the Houston Ship Channel is
closed and there is a shelter in place for
Morgan's Point.

Ronnie

-----Original Message-----

From: Crossland, Ronnie
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Edlund, Carl
Cc: Phillips, Pam; Petersen, Chris; Smith,
Monica
Subject: FW: Collision in Houston Ship
Channel -- RRT-6 ALERT

Carl,

This is a heads up. Apparently there has been a collision between two ships in the Houston Ship Channel. One contains MTBE. The USCG is responding and at this point they don't know how much MTBE has been released.

Thanks,
Ronnie

-----Original Message-----

From: Sams, Michael K CIV

[\[mailto:Michael.K.Sams@uscg.mil\]](mailto:Michael.K.Sams@uscg.mil)

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 2:09 PM

To: Crossland, Ronnie; Smith, Monica;

Mason, Steve; Greg Pollock; Richard

Arnhart; Steve Buschang;

Karolien.Debusschere@la.gov;

stephen_spencer@ios.doi.gov;

charlie.henry@noaa.gov; Paige Doelling -

NOAA Federal; Adam Davis - NOAA

Federal; todd.m.peterson@uscg.mil;

Tyndale, Adam J CIV; Dailey, Bryan E

CAPT

Subject: Collision in Houston Ship Channel

-- RRT-6 ALERT

Good Afternoon,

We just received notification from Sector Houston-Galveston about a collision near Light 86 in the upper Houston Ship Channel (Morgan Point area). The 600 ft M/V Carla Maersk was loaded with 216,000 barrels of MTBE; unknown quantity released. The 623 ft M/V Conti Peridot is a bulk carrier (steel cargo).

Initial summary follows:

- Incident occurred at 1247 CT on Mon, 9 Mar 2015
- M/V Carla Maersk reports three port cargo tanks are breeched & leaking (unknown quantity released)
- No injuries reported
- M/V Conti Peridot damage is unknown; no discharge
- Tide is falling (high tide was within last hour)
- Fog is impacting ability to conduct

overflight; USCG will arrange once weather permits

USCG is in initial assessment phase. I will provide additional details once obtained.

Pls let me know if I can answer any questions. Thx!

V/r,

Mike Sams
504-671-2234 (o)
281-881-6193 (c)
Michael.K.Sams@uscg.mil